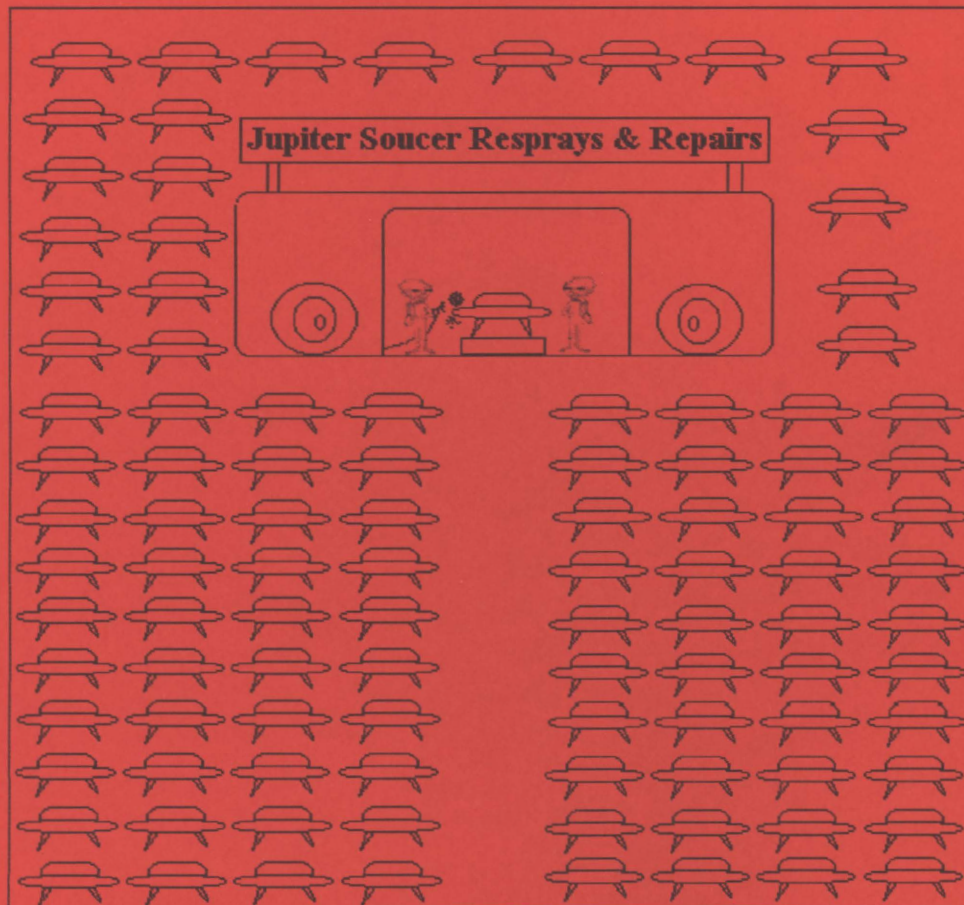


YUFOS

YORKSHIRE UFO SOCIETY

PROJECT RED BOOK

(Vol.4 # 3, September 2000)



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inside this document

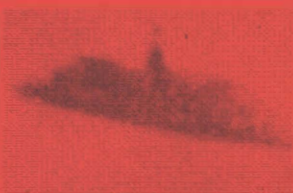
AN INTERVIEW WITH OMAR FOWLER

SEA-SERPENT REPORTS FROM THE PRO

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YUFOS



Vol 4 # 2, August 2000)

CONTENTS

1) AN INTERVIEW WITH OMAR FOWLER

Dave Baker talks to the editor of OVNI about circles and triangles

8) FROM AROUND THE WORLD...

Monster trap set in lake,
SETI scope searches stars,
Yowies,
Lake on Jupiter Moon,
UFOs or satellites

13) SEA-SERPENT REPORTS FOUND AT PRO

Andy Roberts with, er... like it says.

14) HUNT FOR NESSIE ON INTERNET

15) UFO-THE KEY TURNING POINT (pt.3)

Bill Booker on sound and gravity

17) FIREBALL METEOR OR UFO?

Dave Baker looks into a report from the Derbyshire Peak

18) SCHWEINHURT-A MYSTERY SOLVED?

Andy Roberts on Foo-Fighter puzzle

20) MAGNETIC SOLUTION TO CROP CIRCLE PUZZLE

Colin Andrews causes Croppies to get in tizzy

HAUNTED REALM website
<http://boggards.friendpages.com>

UFOIN: www.ufoin.org.uk

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To re-print articles in this magazine please enquire at the above address- that means me, Dave. I'm sure to say "yes", but it is nice to ask first...and remember to give us a reference now, y'hear?

The articles and views expressed in this magazine do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor, YUFOS members, or Gabbo

"There's no such thing as the bogeyman. It's just something parents made up to frighten kids...like Micheal Jackson!"

AN INTERVIEW WITH OMAR FOWLER

Omar Fowler has been researching the UFO phenomenon for almost thirty years. He was a founder member of the Surrey Investigation Group on Aerial Phenomenon (SIGAP), and exchanged information with UFO groups and researchers around the world, including Jaques Vallee and Dr. J. Allen Hynek. He established the Phenomenon Research Association (PRA) in 1990, and is the author of the booklets *The Flying Triangle Mystery* and *Flying Triangle UFOs- the Continuing Story*. He also edits the PRA's bi-monthly magazine, *OVNI*. He has made appearances on TV, and regularly appears on radio to discuss Unidentified Flying Objects.

DAVE BAKER: Omar, you are often referred to in the media as "veteran ufologist", but just how long have you been involved in UFO research and how did you start?

OMAR FOWLER: I first became actively involved in researching the UFO subject after witnessing a UFO incident over Guildford, Surrey in 1967, but first of all let me explain a little about my background.

I had been involved in aviation for a number of years, serving seven years in the Fleet Air Arm, before moving to the Empire Test Pilots School at the RAE in Farnborough, where I stayed for four years.

I later took up a position with a plastics company in Guildford on Technical Sales. This involved work with a number of aircraft developments, such as the Vickers VC10, DH Trident and the Concorde. The point I am trying to make is that I guess I knew one end of an aircraft from the other and had a pretty good idea of what was flying around at the time.

On one particular day during the Summer of 1967, I happened to be in Guildford during the lunch hour. I was suddenly aware that a small crowd of people had gathered and were looking up at the sky. I naturally became curious and also glanced skyward. I quickly spotted what appeared to be a stationary silver ball. It appeared to be at a height of around 2/3000ft.

As I watched it, I noticed that a thin high cloud layer way above it was slowly moving across the sky, and yet this object remained stationary. I thought it couldn't be a 'Met' balloon, because it was the wrong colour and also it was not drifting in any direction. Then after what can only have been a few minutes,

the object seemed to 'spin' and then disappear in front of my eyes!

This incident aroused my curiosity about the subject of UFOs. Someone mentioned to me, "If you are interested in that subject, you should read a magazine called *Flying Saucer Review (FSR)*." I obtained a copy shortly afterwards and began to study the UFO cases detailed on each page. I thought, "If only one in a hundred of these incidents is true, then there is something pretty strange going on!"

Incidentally, I am now a director of *FSR*.

It was shortly afterwards that I contacted a few like-minded people and we formed a small group called the "Surrey Investigation Group on Aerial Phenomena" (SIGAP)

Can you remember your first case?

Yes I can and it was quite astounding. A young couple "Peter and Christine, were driving home to Dorking at about 11pm on the night of the 17th April 1982, after spending a pleasant evening in the picturesque village of Arbing in Surrey. As they were driving along through the countryside, casually chatting, they spotted a light glinting through the distant trees.

They thought at first that it may have been an approaching car, but the light was too high and Peter commented that they must have built a roadway over the trees for the light to be coming from a car and they both laughed at the idea. As they drew closer, they could clearly see the light twinkling through the trees and Peter began to wonder what it was. Meanwhile, Christine was beginning to worry and she commented to Peter, "The lights still there, the lights still there!"

Peter tried to reassure Christine and treated their situation as a joke, then as they dropped down Coast Hill, they could see the light was now level with them as it shone through the trees. They soon reached the bottom of the hill and turned around a slight bend in the road. As they looked up, they were startled to see a bright light illuminating the whole field. There above them, at a height of only about a hundred feet was a huge craft. The whole thing was about the size of a First World War Zeppelin. From the front shone two beams of bright light, there were numerous green lights running down the side of the craft and as they passed underneath it they saw there were two huge red glowing "burners" at the back of it.

Peter was stunned, Christine's legs "turned to jelly" and the car hit the curb and mounted the pavement. Peter looked up, "I just could not believe what I was seeing" he commented later. As the massive craft loomed over them, Peter could make out a red and green light either side of the two great spotlights. Looking back, they could see the "burners" in more detail, they were about five feet in diameter and they could see down into the red glowing tubes. "They were vast," said Peter, they reminded him of the rocket engines on an American spacecraft, he had the impression of tremendous power. When Christine saw these she became really scared. "That's what really frightened me," she said, "that's when I realised it was not a plane!"

Peter accelerated the car up the hill away from the scene. Once they were a little way clear, Peter stopped the car and they both glanced back...But there was nothing there. Peter and Christine were stunned. "How could a gigantic craft like that disappear in just a few seconds?"

There were no other cars in sight and Peter could see all the way across to Gatwick. "There was no sign of a plane going away, there were no lights, there was nothing!"

Yes, that was my first 'Real' case and a fascinating one it was too!

How does it compare to the sort of thing you are investigating now?

Such close encounters are a rarity these days, but I would compare the "Peter and Christine" incident with the Colin Saunders case that took place on the night of the 31st March 1999. Colin and his family were driving along Fosse

Way, Leicestershire, and had an encounter with a hovering Flying Triangle. Colin is an ex-aircraft design engineer and has subsequently produced a number of excellent drawings and models based on the FT craft.

Do you feel that you have learned anything in your 30 years of UFO investigation?

Yes, I feel that I have learned a lot. One of the primary lessons was the fact that many so-called "UFO witnesses" often see what they expect to see and not what is actually there. (I will detail such a case later.)

Another important lesson that everyone in Ufology should learn, is the danger of falling into the trap of inter-group bickering and the character assassination of various individuals. It is something that I strenuously avoid, a it is playing into the hands of the very people that wish to distract us from getting too close to the truth of what is really going on around us.

You may have noted that the UFO cases printed in my magazine *OVNI* journal can freely be re-printed or quoted. We only ask that there is reference given to the source of the article. In other words, we do not treat UFO cases as "ours"; the information printed is freely available to any interested party. How else can we visualise the world-wide picture if groups keep "their" cases to themselves. (Only to gather dust in some long-forgotten archive.)

Have you ever had to make a major re-think about a case you once investigated?

Yes, it was in the late sixties when we had a number of mysterious daylight UFO reports over Guildford. It happened during a misty day and the sightings were reported about lunchtime.

The primary witness, a Mr. 'S' had been cycling back to work, when through the mist drifted a "Double Bubble" craft. It was only a hundred feet or so up in the air and had "radar aerials on top, landing legs and a jet of flame came out of one side". Within a minute or so it was lost from sight in the mist.

This was a remarkable sighting and could have been of great importance! Was a spacecraft about to land on the outskirts of Guildford?

As the result of the initial report I placed a notice in the local paper, asking for any other witnesses to contact me. Shortly afterwards I received a reply from a man who had been standing in a bus queue with several other people. The bus stop was situated only a few hundred yards from the position of the first witness. The second witness said, "I saw this flaming object coming through the mist and I drew it to the attention of a woman standing next to me. It appeared as a black flaming bag of some kind and then it was gone." So what had happened to the "Double Bubble"?

The answer came within a few short days. A young lad in the centre of Guildford had been amusing himself during his lunch hour, by releasing large black plastic bags inflated with a flaming material beneath them. A witness' frantic imagination had done the rest...a lesson to be learned!

What is the Phenomenon Research Association (PRA)?

The PRA was formed by myself in July 1991 and consists of people interested in the subject of UFOs and allied phenomena. We have a passing interest in Ghosts and at one time carried out an extensive study of the Crop Circle mystery. We produce a bi-monthly journal called *OVNI*, which carries regular contribution from our members. (£10 per annum).

Although formed initially for people in and around the Derby area, our membership of around eighty has now extended to France, Germany, Belgium, Spain, South America, Australia, and the USA.

Tell us a little about the work the PRA did on the crop circle phenomenon. I know that in 1991 the group produced a report entitled, "*Crop Circles- the Final Solution*"

It is a little difficult to condense our study of the Crop Circle phenomenon into just a few sentences, but basically our premise is this; there are two types of Crop Circle, the "Natural" atmospherically formed Crop Circle and others that have been formed by "An Intelligence".

At the time of our initial investigation, the Crop Circles were of a simple pattern of single circles, which at the time appeared in groups of up to five. Later came the addition of "trenches" and bizarre patterns covering many intricate designs.

My own investigations of Crop Circles began in 1985 in Southern England, where I joined forces with "Busty" Taylor, Pat Delgado and on occasions Colin Andrews. I discovered a series of "bent stems" which curiously enough were all bent at the same height (55cm-22"). I began to puzzle why they should be bent at this height. I took numerous measurements, samples and aerial photographs, including infrared. Two of my test results were reproduced in the book *Circular Evidence* without any acknowledgement to myself (I subsequently received a written apology). My research then came to a halt, as I had moved to Spain where I lived until 1990.

Upon my return to the UK I moved to Derbyshire, where I renewed my interest in what was now the highly complicated field of Crop Circles. In 1991 I founded the PRA and enlisted the help of members to further investigate the "Natural" Crop Circle phenomenon.

The investigations undertaken in 1991 revealed crop stems that showed signs of "burn" and "crease" marks. Both the burn and crease marks were even distributed along each stem and we postulated that a High Frequency wave pattern might have been responsible for their even distribution. However it was not until the following year that we had the means to test for H/F radiation in the Crop Circle area.

One of our members, Paul Foster, who happened to be a bit of an electronics 'whiz kid', developed a detector which was capable of detecting a wide band of radiation between 20HZ and 12 GHZ. This instrument was used for the first time at Husbands Bosworth, Leicestershire, where a Crop Circle had appeared on a local hill for the fourth consecutive year. The "Microdet" detected a H/F blanket of radiation covering the hilltop, although it was unable to locate the source.

Further study was undertaken using an ionisation meter, with the intention of trying to identify and locate the mysterious energy source. It soon became apparent that an existing ionisation charge played a major part in the energy concentration formed in the Crop Circle area.

Without going into precise details (which are covered in the technical paper *Crop Circles: The Final Solution* £6 plus 50p postage), we established that a strong field of negative ion energy forms over a wheat-field whenever certain conditions are met. This produces a high-energy field which will produce red sparks and even flashes of lightning over the wheat-fields (known to farmers as "Corn Ripening Lightning").

With a high positive energy field in the Ionosphere, it is possible that a spiralling vortex action takes place between the Ionosphere and the negative charge over the wheat-fields. This may result in glowing balls of plasma being seen and a H/F energy field forming in the area. (Animal reaction has been noted in number of instances and in Canada a "micro-waved" porcupine was found in one Crop Circle).

While we cannot positively prove that our theory of spiralling H/F energy is the answer to the "Natural" Crop Circle formations, it is certainly worthy of study and a theory that we still stand by.

Crop Circles recently made the UK news, both on TV and in 'the papers' when Colin Andrews made a number of statements on the subject. (see p.20) This caused quite a stir among the Circle fraternity, with even 'pro' Circle investigators arguing amongst themselves. What are your views on what Colin had to say?

I understand that Colin Andrews stated that the pattern of the Earth's magnetic field shifts as it passes through the earth. This shift induces a current onto the wheat causing it to collapse into the pattern of the magnetic field.

Firstly, I believe that a moving magnetic current would only induce a current in a magnetic material. (Wheat is an insulator). Even if an electromagnetic charge were induced into the plant, the charge would be constant while the magnetic field is in motion. This in turn would produce an 'elongated circle' showing the distance of the magnetic shift. This does not agree with the majority of 'Natural' Crop Circles, which generally tend to be completely circular.

Omar, you are perhaps best known for your study into the so-called 'Flying Triangles', or Triangular-shaped UFOs. When did you notice that FTs were becoming a phenomenon within ufology?

Although I had been aware of the triangular UFO shape occasionally being reported by witnesses, it was the big 'flap' over Derby and surrounding districts that really drew my attention to this phenomenon. During the period of December 1994 – May 1995, we received 52 reports of "Flying Triangle" incidents in this area. This included an FT observed hovering over the Rolls-Royce engine works at night and one even being seen hovering over a main traffic island in the city during rush hour!

Some ufologists believe that Flying Triangles are a modern aspect of ufology. What is the earliest recorded sighting of a definite "Flying Triangle"?

The earliest FT sighting that we have on record in the "Project FT" files, is a report of a "triangular shaped" UFO, seen over the Bass Strait in Australia in August 1942. The Ft apparently buzzed an aircraft at the time.

The earliest local report we have is that of Mr. Robin Gibbard, who was repairing a roof in Allestree, Derby on 19th April 1956. He looked up and was amazed to see an old Avro Anson, being buzzed by a small black triangular craft, which then shot skywards.

Apart from being triangular, and flying, what other characteristics do FTs have?

There are a number and they are detailed in my booklet *Flying Triangle UFOs: The Continuing Story* (£4:00 including postage). Basically, a flash of "sheet lightning" may precede them; they will probably travel slowly and almost silently, although a low hum may be heard. They generally appear to be very large and completely black, although they often show a white light at each corner. They will likely have either a bright white light or a red light at centre. They do not always travel "point first". But are often observed flying broad side forward. This denotes that their shape is not dictated by aerodynamic

requirements and they probably travel by a means unknown to us at the present time. They have often been observed in a silent stationary mode, at various heights, including close to ground level. They may depart suddenly, again accompanied by flash of light.

You work closely with Victor J.Kean and "Project FT"...

Victor was the originator of "Project FT" and together with the late Ron West I helped to get the study programme underway. A number of International UFO groups also participate in the project. Victor is a senior analyst and has over 8,000 FT reports in the project's databank. Although he resides in Germany, I am in touch with him daily, when we exchange the latest FT information.

There have been reports of FTs hovering over power stations...what do you make of this?

I see no reason to get alarmed over the FT's interest in our Nuclear Power Stations. They appear to be monitoring our actions, as they do with water and other main utilities. So called "contactees" often claim that Aliens have warned us about the dangers of our involvement with nuclear energy and judging by some of the recent media reports, they have offered us some sound advice.

Just for the record, with the widespread use of camcorders, we now have video footage of what appears to be their interaction within the precincts of Nuclear Power Stations.

You mentioned Aliens quite matter-of-factly there. Do you believe that Aliens are visiting Earth?

Several years ago I held the position of "National Investigations Co-ordinator" with BUFORA (British UFO Research Association). It was during this time that I began receiving reports from witnesses (including some Academics), that they had been visited by small Alien beings. At the time, I really could not accept their stories as they seemed so outlandish, but since then many researchers, particularly Budd Hopkins has been investigating similar claims. I feel that I should have paid more attention to those early reports. Even now I receive telephone

calls from complete strangers who tell me that they (or their children) are alarmed by the visitations of small Alien "beings".

One of the most prominent cases I have been involved in was the "Mr.Burtoo" case in August 1983. Mr.Burtoo lived in Aldershot and was known to me at the time of the incident. He was a bit of a local historian, a keen night fisherman and didn't give a cuss for anyone. The experience that he related of having been inside a "Saucer" that landed by the canal was extraordinary and he described too many "known" factors about the inside of a saucer for me to consider it a made-up story.

I also had the pleasure of meeting Professor John E. Mack at Claridges Hotel in London a couple of years ago. Although I cannot produce an Alien for you in a bottle, what he had to say convinced me that Alien visitations are happening and that's good enough for me! I really cannot speculate as to why they are abducting people, possibly to produce a hybrid race? As for how long it's been going on, who knows? Probably for centuries!

Some of the most famous UFO reports of the last two decades have featured Flying Triangles. What do you make of the Hudson Valley sightings?

The Hudson Valley sightings (1983-85) were widespread and observed by a number of accredited witnesses. The alien craft were also seen to be taking an interest in nuclear facilities, for example Indian Point. These incidents have been fully documented in the book *Night Siege*, by none other than Dr. J. Allen Hynek, Philip J. Imbrogno and Bob Platt. I would hesitate to question their findings and look upon their report as one of the most prominent documents in the field of "Flying Triangle" study.

What about the Belgian Flying Triangle Flap, most famously the incident with their Air Force? Some researchers claim that the Belgian jets' on-board radar were faulty and were locked on each other, while others say that the Triangle was part of an ultra black top secret project...

The Belgian "flap" (December 1989/90) was not the sole responsibility of the Belgian Air Force as there were also hundreds of ground

observations. I am in regular contact with the Belgian UFO group SOBEPS (Societe Belge d'Etudes des Phenomenes Spatiaux) and I met one of their leading investigators Patrick Ferry several years ago. He explained that the Belgian Air Force were in a dilemma, as their radar could not cover all of the areas where the FT craft were being reported.

In view of the country-wide cover of SOBEPS members, the Belgian Air Force asked for their co-operation. At one stage there were two F-16s sitting at the end of the runway waiting to be directed to a specific area, by the SOBEPS staff members. (I expect that that we have all seen the F-16 cockpit radar film footage).

The head of the Belgian Air Force has described the F-16 interceptions on TV and the scientific head of their radar establishment has said that in his opinion the craft were not from anywhere on Earth. I wouldn't argue with their conclusions!

The "Phoenix Lights" ...although the famous footage of the lights 'hovering' by the mountains has been more or less accepted as being military flares – even by staunch ET supporter Bruce Maccabee, it does seem that *something* flew over Arizona, and Phoenix itself...

I have only seen the TV film footage, which is pretty inconclusive. I would not wish to pass an opinion, but it does appear quite likely that the lights were flares of some type. If there were reports of a large craft flying around at the time, it would be difficult to make any connection without further proof of some kind.

Even though some FT reports are undoubtedly conventional aircraft viewed from unusual angles or seen under unusual conditions, or many other misidentifications, there does appear to be genuine unknowns. What do you think these remainder actually are?

A difficult question to answer. On the one hand, we have these large, silent craft flying over our countryside at night. These are, in my opinion, extraterrestrial craft on some kind of survey mission.

Secondly, I believe that we (the British) have developed a smaller type of Stealth "Flying Triangle" which is operated by remote telemetric/control. It's capabilities are highly advanced and this is probably the reason for the rumours of a Government "D" notice at the mention of FT's. The Stealth triangle has been seen on numerous occasions in company of a parent aircraft. One even flew over Wigan in broad daylight, in company with a Chinook helicopter a couple of years ago. (ref. Wigan News)

You mentioned the "D" notice. Do you think that there is any truth to the idea of a concerted Government Cover-up concerning the true nature of UFOs?

I don't have to read reports from Roswell or anywhere else to realise that there is great government secrecy about "what is going on". I base this remark on personal experience over the years. Apart from being reliably informed that my phone was being tapped some years ago (it happens to us all), I had an interesting experience back in the 1970s, when I was involved with some cockpit development work on the Concorde at Filton, Bristol.

It was quite a long drive from Guildford to Bristol in those days, before the M4 was built and on the return journey I drove home listening to the radio. My Company companion also sat listening, just as the 3:30pm news came on. To our astonishment the BBC news broadcaster said, "Reports are coming in that a UFO is hovering over Adelaide and is interfering with signals from the Gemini spacecraft."

We couldn't believe our ears and as the journey continued, we anxiously awaited the next news bulletin...On it came, but this time no mention of Adelaide, a UFO or the Gemini spacecraft. I guess someone slipped up for a moment somewhere along the line, but the leak was soon rectified. There was no further news and nothing in the following day's newspapers!

I consider it highly unlikely that there will ever be any announcement about our Alien visitors as such. The public's education about the subject will continue gradually, as at the present time i.e. "The increasing likelihood of Alien life on other planets," etc.

Who do you think is doing the most important work in the UFO field today?

I believe the Nuclear physicist Stanton T. Friedman and Timothy Good are leaders in the field of diligent UFO research in the world today. I am not belittling the excellent work being carried out by many other UFO researchers, but in my book they are the tops.

There have been a number of recent re-evaluations by UFO researchers of 'classic' UFO cases, such as Jenny Randles on the Rendlesham Forest encounters, Andy Roberts on the Berwyn Mountains 'crash', and James Easton with his Kenneth Arnold 'Pelican' theory...good, scientific investigation, or scepticism gone mad?

Everyone is entitled to their own point of view in discussing past UFO cases. I am always ready to study and discuss other opinions, but in the case of Rendlesham for instance, I have read some reports that a distant lighthouse confused the US servicemen. This is in spite of reports from US servicemen such as Larry Warren, who has a very convincing account of what probably took place.

There is also the official report from Lt.Col. Charles I. Halt USAF that makes convincing reading. I would expect the US Air Force to be very selective when promoting their officers and for this reason alone, I am willing to accept Colonel Halt's report on face value.

Which five books should be on every ufologists bookshelf?

- (1) *The UFO Experience* by J. Allen Hynek (for historical reference)
- (2) *Above Top Secret* by Timothy Good (The first major UFO assessment)
- (3) *Anatomy of a Phenomenon* by Jacques Vallee (An early scientific approach)
- (4) *Abduction* by Prof John E. Mack ('A study of Human Encounters with Aliens')

(5) *The Day After Roswell* by Col. Philip J. Corso ('A story of intrigue and secrecy')

What are you presently working on?

Apart from work in editing the *OVNI* journal, I am presently working on my lat booklet, *Flying Triangle UFOs: the Continuing Story*. I am constantly receiving FT reports from worldwide sources and I am working hard to keep track of current events.

Finally Omar, what aspects of the UFO phenomenon excite you the most at this time?

I believe that the current widespread use of camcorders is of particular significance for UFO researchers. I am particularly intrigued with the strange events going on over Bradford at the present time and the video footage taken by Russell Kellet of these mysterious craft.

Omar, thank you for taking the time to talk to Project Red Book, and good luck in your future endeavours.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 10th October

7:00pm- 10:00pm

THE THREE CRANES

Queen Street

Sheffield City Centre

FROM AROUND THE WORLD...AND BEYOND!!!

UFOs, conspiracies, fortune and paranormal events compiled by Dave Baker

GIANT TRAP SET FOR MONSTER IN LAKE

(Alistair Doyle, August 2, 2000)

OSLO (Reuters) - An international team of monster hunters unveiled a giant trap Wednesday for catching a fabled serpent, reputed to be a cousin of Scotland's Loch Ness monster, in a lake in south Norway.

"This is the first serpent trap of its kind in the world," Jan Sundberg, a Swede leading a team of 12 experts, told Reuters. The team comprises seven Swedes, three Norwegians, a Canadian and a Belgian. The 18-foot-long tube-shaped trap, comprising a metal frame with nylon netting, will be lowered into Seljord lake in south Norway. It will contain live whitefish for bait to catch an elusive beast known to locals as "Selma."

"The trap is adapted from a fish trap for eels. If anything up to about six meters long swims in one end, the opening closes and it won't be able to get out," said Sundberg, a veteran of several inconclusive high-tech scans of the murky lake.

Over the next two weeks, the team will dangle the cage in the lake, about 110 miles (170 km) southwest of Oslo, at depths of between 30 and 100 meters near where sightings of the monster have been reported.

Two biologists at the University of Oslo were on standby to fly down by helicopter and take tests if the trap worked. "We'll take a DNA sample, document the serpent and then release it into the lake," he said. "We will be very careful not to hurt it."

Experts on land would also try to track any unexplained movements underwater with hydrophones and sonars to help experts on a floating platform move the trap quickly to a promising spot.

Sundberg said the team recorded mysterious whale-like noises during a visit in 1999. "We'd be disappointed if we don't get some kind of result this time...the only evidence scientists would accept is a dead or a live serpent," he said.

The beast was first spotted around 1750, and most accounts agree it looks like a serpent with the head of an elk or a horse. Seljord is a town of about 1,500 people at the head of the picturesque lake, about 15 km (nine miles) long.

In recent years, Seljord has tried to imitate Loch Ness in attracting tourists. In 1986, the local council changed Seljord's coat of arms to portray a sea serpent.

POLICEMAN, WORKERS TRACK ROAMING, 12-FOOT CREATURE

(Laura Barnhardt, Aug 1 2000 Sun Staff)

Anne Arundel County police looked for a mysterious 12-foot creature yesterday, but it's unclear whether an officer and witnesses spotted an animal or maybe -- they joked -- the imaginary Loch Ness Monster from the Severn River.

A Police Department spokesman confirmed a report of a "strange sighting" in Hanover just after midnight yesterday near the Arundel Mills mall construction site. But witnesses said the 12-foot-tall, upright, black "thing" ran past them so fast they weren't sure what it was.

Construction workers who were napping in a van called police, who dispatched an off-duty officer working security at the mall site to investigate.

The workers, who had fled to a nearby fast-food restaurant for safety, were reluctant to return to the construction site with the officer, said Sgt. Joseph Jordan.

But the workers finally agreed to show the officer where they had seen the creature. After a brief search, the officer found a footprint about 15 to 20 inches long, Jordan said.

Officers contacted the state Department of Natural Resources, which reported a recent sighting of two bears near Interstate 295, Jordan said. However, the print seemed rather large and long for a bear print, police said.

When the workers and the officer later caught another glimpse of what appeared to be the

animal near a pond also on the site, the workers ran, police said.

The off-duty officer stayed and reported seeing two animal-like eyes in the dark, though he couldn't tell what it was, police said.

In case the creature was a bear, the officer continued to stay in the area it was last seen, occasionally shining his spotlight around the pond, Jordan said.

About 3 a.m., the officer saw what appeared to be an animal lying on a hill near the pond, though it's unclear whether it was the same animal spotted earlier, police said.

The officer blew an air horn several times, "but it didn't jerk or move at all," Jordan said.

Anyone who sees a large animal should keep a safe distance and immediately call 911, Jordan said.

Police do not believe it was a person. "It had fur," Jordan said.

But, he said, whatever it was disappeared before the mystery could be solved.

SETI SCOPE SEARCHES STARS

With millions of dollars in funding pledged by two of the men behind software giant Microsoft, the search for intelligent life on other planets got a big boost Tuesday as officials unveiled plans for a massive new telescope to scan the skies.

The Allen Telescope Array -- named for Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen, who put up \$11.5 million for the project -- will be "the world's most powerful instrument designed to seek out signals from civilizations elsewhere in our galaxy," the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence Institute said.

*Is There Life on Jovian Moon?
SETI Upgrades ET Search*

Joining Allen in funding the project was former Microsoft Chief Technology Officer Nathan Myhrvold, who contributed \$1 million toward the \$26 million needed to build the field of hundreds of linked radio telescope dishes in Northern California.

"While the best scientific estimates tell us the probability of intelligent life elsewhere in the

universe is fairly high, there is great uncertainty and some controversy in the calculation," Myhrvold said in a statement.

"One thing, however, is beyond dispute. That is, if we don't continue supporting projects like the Allen Telescope Array, our chances of discovery will remain at zero."

Plans for the telescope mark a turning point for the SETI Institute, the Silicon Valley-based nonprofit, which is the world's largest private organization devoted to the search for extraterrestrial intelligence.

The institute's Project Phoenix, which spends more than \$4 million a year to buy time on large radio telescopes, is widely held to be the inspiration for the 1997 film *Contact*, starring Jodie Foster.

But institute researchers have never before had their own installation devoted exclusively to hunting down signals from alien worlds.

"We're overjoyed, and we're ready to move ahead," said Jill Tarter, the institute's director of research. "Paul and Nathan have understood from the beginning how exciting and groundbreaking this telescope could be. They have contributed time and ideas to our work, and now they are quite literally giving us the means to make it happen."

The telescope, which will be jointly administered by the University of California at Berkeley, will be situated about 290 miles north of San Francisco at the university's Hat Creek Observatory, a remote site that is "radio quiet" with little static or man-made interference.

Astronomers hope the new telescope will be an important tool in the hunt for alien life, which has been going on for more than four decades.

While researchers have carefully screened records of extraterrestrial radio emissions, they have yet to come up with a signal displaying a pattern that would clearly indicate it was produced by intelligent life.

The Allen project will differ significantly from radio telescopes currently in use. Unlike mammoth dishes such as the Arecibo radio telescope in Puerto Rico, the Allen Array will be constructed from between 500 and 1,000 small, mass-produced dishes resembling those used for home satellite television reception.

"They are going to be single, backyard-style dishes, arrayed together in a field," said Greg Klerkx, SETI's director of development. "It will be a lot of small dishes, but their signals will be electronically linked to form one picture of the stars."

Klerkx said project astronomers were starting to develop a list of "target" stars for observation, focusing on those suns which most resemble our own solar system and are closest to us as the best possible chance for discovering nearby intelligent life.

The new telescope will incorporate miniaturized electronics as well as large amounts of affordable computer processing, which will enable it to look at up to a dozen candidate star systems simultaneously, scientists say.

It should also prove useful for traditional research in radio astronomy, enabling scientists to look more closely at interstellar chemistry, the structure of galactic magnetic fields, and the physics of rotating neutron stars.

SETI Institute officials hope to have a large-scale prototype of the new telescope ready by 2003 and to push the project quickly toward completion, with the full telescope scheduled to become operational in 2005.

YOWIE CHECKED OUT BY BIGFOOT EXPERT

(Source: *AAP* August 17)

American experts will conduct tests next week to see if their country's mythical Big Foot has an Australian relative - the yowie.

Dean Harrison, who heads Yowiehunters, a Queensland group dedicated to searching for the elusive ape-like creature, says the American scientists will examine supposed evidence of a yowie found last year on a property near Springbrook, in the Gold Coast hinterland.

"We are sending off the footprints and hair samples to the Texas police pathology forensics unit, who are world leaders in forensics," Mr Harrison said. "The prints will definitely be matched with those from the Big Foot."

The Australian samples will be examined by Texas police pathologist Dr Jim Chilcutt and Dr Jeff Meldrum, of Idaho State University, as part of a documentary to be filmed by the Discovery Channel, he said.

Mr Harrison said the footprint casts were made after a night expedition last October.

"We had been tracking this creature for about 15km and towards the end of the night he actually followed our cars through the bush," he said.

The yowie hunters then contacted the owner of the property, who went out the next morning and cast the prints in plaster.

"The next weekend, we had fallen asleep about 3am and woke up at 6am and found the same footprints around our camp," Mr Harrison said.

"So he'd actually come up from the valley and walked around us in our sleep, and we have the photos of those footprints."

Last weekend, four yowie hunters and an Australian-based film crew from the Discovery Channel went to Taree, on the New South Wales mid-north coast, where Mr Harrison said he had previously seen evidence of yowies.

The Discovery Channel crew did not leave disappointed, he said.

"The cameramen were as white as sheets after their encounter. They were growled at by a creature about 20 metres away and they saw the red eyes of the creature coming through the bush," Mr Harrison said.

But the crew failed to film the yowie, he said.

The camera crew would travel to Houston, Texas, next week for the forensic analysis, but Mr Harrison said it was not known when the Discovery Channel would air the documentary.

Results of the tests were expected in about 10 days, he said.

THINK YOU SAW A UFO? THINK AGAIN

(August 11, 2000, Philip Chien, Fox News)

NASA has recently bragged that the International Space Station will be "large

enough to see with the naked eye." While that may be true, it's not the only visible thing circling the Earth.

A giant radar, built during the Sputnik era, is still tracking shuttles, satellites and space junk.

Any relatively dark location with clear skies is adequate for viewing satellites. If you can see the brighter stars, you can see these manufactured, orbiting items.

Some are fairly steady points of light, others flash unpredictably. Finding them is just a matter of knowing when, where and what to look for.

Right now, Russia's Mir space station is the brightest manmade object in the night sky. ISS will surpass Mir's brightness as more components are added.

But hundreds of objects in space — live satellites, dead satellites tumbling out of control and spent rocket bodies — are visible with the naked eye.

At first many are mistaken for airplanes, but satellites don't have running lights.

Satellite observing goes back to Oct. 4, 1957, with the launch of Sputnik 1.

Astronaut Frank Culbertson said, "Sputnik was the spark that ignited the space program today. I remember being taken out in the backyard by my dad [when I was 8] and being shown Sputnik as it flew overhead."

Today, some of the most-tracked objects are classified military satellites. Satellites — including 'top-secret' classified ones — obey the same laws of physics as everything else, so as amateur satellite observer Sean Sullivan says, "Anything the size of a school bus is going to be pretty bright when it's lit up by the sun."

In 1983, the decision was made to classify orbital tracking data from U.S. military satellites, data that was publicly available throughout the most intense portions of the Cold War.

An unclassified National Reconnaissance Office photo of an imaging satellite. Satellite tracking analysts believe that this is the so-called 'Lacrosse' model.

Ironically, the U.S. government's decision to

keep military satellite information hush-hush has only encouraged amateurs to concentrate on them. And many concentrate on the U.S. photo reconnaissance satellites.

A series of Navy satellites, often referred to as "White Cloud," fly as a trio of satellites in a triangular configuration, which has resulted in them often being mistaken for UFOs.

Like crumbled aluminum foil, two of the satellites flash in irregular patterns. A series of large radar satellites is called "Lacrosse"; they are distinctly red because of their insulation.

So widespread is military satellite tracking that their names are always in question. Since names are changed when they become known publicly, a satellite which may have been originally called "Lacrosse" will now be something else, though it'll be just as visible to a seasoned observer.

Some military experts say amateur efforts to track classified satellites undermine national security and violators should be prosecuted. The National Reconnaissance Office has taken a more laid-back attitude: "There's a lot of Web pages which indicate how to view what they claim are military satellites which may or may not be accurate. That's just fine with us," said spokesperson Rick Oborn.

The 'Angry Alligator,' designed for the Gemini 9 spacecraft to practice docking in space, was so nicknamed after a shroud jammed.

And tracking doesn't have to involve logging on, said satellite observer Ted Molczan: "If any foreign government wanted to track classified military satellites, it would be fairly simple. Just assign embassy personnel around the world with binoculars and stopwatches to take observations each night the sky's clear."

But what's classified and what isn't? There are contradictions.

In many cases the locations of military satellites are publicly available and even coordinated with international organizations, but their orbital information isn't publicly available. What one branch of the military keeps secret is freely available on another government Web page.

Among unclassified satellites, the Hubble Space Telescope is fairly bright and occasionally brightens quickly as it maneuvers to aim at its targets. The Iridium satellites can

flare brighter than the planet Venus when their super-reflective antennas catch the sun just right.

The easiest way to track satellites may be the Web site Heavens-Above.com. Its database includes over 2 million locations worldwide. It will show all of the relatively bright satellites visible each evening and morning from any given location.

And, if you're lucky, you can one night see the space shuttle after it has dumped excess water overboard. But you might mistake it for a comet.

NEW EVIDENCE SUGGESTS OCEAN ON ICY JUPITER MOON

(Lisa Richwine, Reuters -)

New information provides the strongest evidence yet that lying beneath the icy surface of one of Jupiter's moons may be a salty ocean of water, one of the necessary ingredients for life, researchers reported on Friday.

Scientists said data from NASA's Galileo spacecraft suggest the presence of water in liquid form on Europa, a moon similar in size to the Earth's.

The Galileo spacecraft passed close to Europa in January. Measurements from magnetic fields led scientists to conclude that water was the "most probable" explanation for a layer on the moon that conducts electricity, wrote Margaret Kivelson of the University of California at Los Angeles.

Kivelson and her colleagues reported their findings in Friday's edition of the journal Science.

Previous NASA orbiters had beamed images of huge cracks in Europa's surface that indicated a liquid ocean might be sloshing underneath. But scientists could not tell from those pictures whether the water was frozen or in liquid form, a key element for supporting life.

Galileo collected data from magnetic fields and scientists found patterns that indicated the possibility of water, the scientists wrote. While they did not rule out other scenarios, the scientists said water was the most likely explanation for the patterns they saw.

"What our observations show is the liquid water exists today," Krishan Khurana, one of the researchers, said in an interview.

Khurana, a geophysicist at UCLA, said Europa's ocean could be anywhere from 4 to 60 miles (6.4 to 96.5 km) deep. Even though it is buried beneath a thick layer of ice, life forms could draw energy from heat sources below, just as deep sea creatures do in the Earth's oceans, he said.

"Such a process could easily be occurring on Europa," Khurana added.

Given the findings, Europa ranks just behind Mars as bodies in the solar system that merit further exploration for life forms, said David Stevenson of the California Institute of Technology.

"After Mars, it remains the most attractive extraterrestrial environment within our solar system in which to seek evidence of past or present life," Stevenson wrote in an accompanying article in Science.

Stevenson said the Galileo magnetic field evidence is "overwhelming.... A global layer of water with a composition similar to Earth seawater and a thickness greater than about 10 kilometers (6.2 miles) could explain the data."

Future flights to Europa could provide more answers. NASA says it hopes to send another spacecraft there, although the space agency's missions have been hindered by budget constraints.

SEA-SERPENT REPORTS FOUND IN PUBLIC RECORDS OFFICE

By ANDY ROBERTS

Editors Note: During a recent trip to the Public Records Office in Kew Gardens hunting down information from old UFO reports, Andy Roberts came across the following in a file marked "Sea-serpents" and was gracious enough to allow PRB to reproduce them for the first time anywhere...

Sea Serpent records found at the PRO - File no. BJ 7/49

**** marks indecipherable word in original document.

In the log of the Barque Rob Roy, from **** to England James Stockdale commanding on the 9th of May 1830.

Sunday, from St Helena, being in latitudes twenty one south and longitude one degree east of Greenwich - there is the following statement.

*"Light winds and fine clean weather. Strong **** on the surface. Wind SSE with a light swell. Saw several very large whales - some of them very light coloured. About five p.m. all at once while I was walking on the poop my attention was drawn to the water on the port bow by a scuffling noise. Likewise all the watch on deck were drawn to it (being Sunday there was nothing doing.).*

"Judge my amazement when what should stare us all in the face as if not knowing whether to come over the deck or to go around to the stern - but the great thundering big sea snake!

"Now I had heard of the fellow before - and I have killed snakes twenty four feet long in the straits of Malaca, but they would go in his mouth.

"I think he must have been asleep for we were going along very softly two knots an hour, and he seemed as much alarmed as we were - and taken all aback for about fifteen seconds. But he soon was underway and, when fairly off, his head was square with our topsail and his tail was square with the foremast.

"My ship is 171 feet long over all - and the

foremast is 42 feet from the stern (>>>) which would make the monster about 129 feet long. If I had not seen it I could not have believed it but there was no mistake or doubt of its length - for the brute was so close I could even smell his nasty fishy smell.

*"When underway he carried his head about six feet out of water - with a fin between the shoulders about two feet long. I think he was swimming about five miles an hour - for I watched him from the topsail yard till I lost sight of him in about fifty minutes. The thickened part of his body seemed to be as large round as a beef ****. I hope never to see him more. It is enough to frighten the strong at heart."*

Signed James Stockdale, Captain

Bombay to Liverpool

Sea Serpent

Ship Castilan (?) of London 1063 tons. James Miller esq **** and George Henry Harrington commanding - on the 13th of December 1857 the NE end of St Helena bearing NW distant about 10 miles a fresh **** tradewind and a rather cloudy sky - the log states as follows:-

"6.30 p.m. -strong breezes and cloudy - ship sailing twelve miles per hour -

"While myself and officers were standing on the lee side of the poop - looking towards the Island - we were startled by the sight of a huge marine animal which reared its head out of the water within twenty yards of the ship - when it suddenly disappeared for about half a minute and then made a reappearance in the same manner again - showing us distinctly its

neck and head about ten or twenty feet out of the water.

"It's head was shaped like a long **** buoy - and I should suppose the diameter to have been seven or eight feet in the largest part with a kind of scroll or ruff encircling it about two feet from the top. The water was discoloured for several hundred feet from the head, so much so that on its first appearance my impression was that the ship was in broken waters, produced, as I supposed, by some volcanic agency, since I passed the island before.

"But the second appearance completely dispelled those fears and assured us that it was a monster of extraordinary length and appeared to be moving slowly towards the land. The ship was going too fast to enable us to reach the masthead in time to form a correct estimate of this extreme length - but from what we saw from the deck we conclude that he must have been over two hundred feet long.

"The Boatswain and several of the crew, who observed it from the forecastle, state that it was more than double the length of the ship, in which case it must have been five hundred feet.

"Be that as it may - I am convinced that it belonged to the serpent tribe. It was of a dark colour about the head and covered with several white spots. Having **** of the ship at the time I was unable to round-to without risk, and therefore was precluded from getting another sight of this Leviathan of the Deep."

Signed
GH Harrington Commader

Witnessed
William Davies Ships Officer
E. Wheeler Second Officer

There was also an undated and un-named 1963 cutting in the file.

The Great Sea Serpent Again

"The existence of this extraordinary object of curiosity, if not also of terror, has received additional corroboration in the subjoined letter, which has been received in Liverpool from one of the officers of the African mail steamer Athenian:-

"Cape Palmas, May 16th 1863. - All doubts may be set at rest about the Great Sea Serpent. On the 6th of May the African Royal Mail steamer Athenian, on her passage from Teneriffe to Bathurst, fell in with one. About 7am John Chapple, quartermaster, at the wheel, saw something floating towards the ship. He called the attention of the Rev. Mr Smith and another passenger who were on deck at the time, to it.

"On nearing the steamer it was discovered to be a huge snake, about 100 feet long, of a dark brown colour, head and tail out of the water, the body slightly under. On its head was something like a mane, and the body was about the size of our mainmast."

HUNT FOR LOCH NESS MONSTER GOES ON INTERNET

The age-old but so far fruitless hunt for Scotland's Loch Ness monster got a technological boost as a Web camera, installed at the bottom of the Scottish lake, began feeding pictures over the Internet.

Pictures from the underwater camera and a camera installed on the banks of the loch last year can be seen at www.lochness.scotland.net. (USA TODAY on line -September 6, 2000)

IS THIS FOR REAL??? DEPARTMENT

THIS WEBSITE TELLS YOU HOW TO MAKE A THOUGHT SCREEN HELMET, THE MATERIALS AND TOOLS YOU NEED TO MAKE ONE, AND WHERE YOU CAN OBTAIN THE MATERIALS

The thought screen helmet blocks telepathic communication between aliens and humans. Aliens cannot immobilize people wearing thought screens nor can they control their minds or communicate with them.

Results of the thought screen helmet are preliminary. As of June, 2000, aliens have not taken any abductees while they were wearing thought screen helmets using Velostat shielding.

<http://www.stopabductions.com/>

UFOs- THE KEY TURNING POINT (PART 3)

BY W.H. BOOKER (YUFOS)

SOUND

Sound waves can be affected by the wind, and which way it blows. The velocity of wind is always greater at higher levels above the Earth. Close to the ground the wind faces much friction and resistance due to rough surfaces such as trees, shrubs, buildings etc. Sound waves are accelerated when they move in the same direction as the wind higher up, then they always tend to be brought down to earth, thus sounding much louder than normal. The opposite effect occurs when the wind blows opposite to the sound waves. Many times you will have seen a vehicle or plane approaching, but with no sound until it gets much closer. This usually happens when the wind blows strongly from behind you, towards the object or plane. Then on the other hand you could turn completely around and hear the sound of a vehicle or plane, but be unable to see it until it moved closer towards you.

According to physics audio sound waves produce very little energy. But we can transfer sound waves to electrical energy and this can be amplified as much as you require, using a microphone to change audio waves into electrical impulses. Then by amplification, through to a speaker, the same way they do at a football ground or similar.

Nowadays we can even get sounds to operate machinery, open doors etc, using electronics. A fair amount of research has gone into audio waves over the past few years. But I think we should be doing more research into sub-audible sounds or ultra-sonics. This may help us to understand why we don't hear any sound when a UFO is close, or close enough that we should hear something.

In ancient times, say verses of the 'Dzyan', man could fly when he sang a certain refrain and clashed a cymbal. The 'Dzyan' is a Hebrew poem translated from ancient Sanskrit after having been written in old Chinese.

Also according to folklore, in Galway in Ireland, everyone danced in the air. People could fly- when they sang a certain refrain and clashed their cymbals...

Rather than go into more technical details of sound such as nodes, antinodes, overtones, frequency, wavelength, pitch, timbre or pure notes- which you can get from tuning forks, I think we have covered a reasonable area of audio waves- that's sounds we can hear and the rest we don't hear. So to terminate this section on sound we'll go out with a big bang! (Ouch!)

GRAVITY

My final subject under discussion in this giant jigsaw is gravity, but this subject is likely to contain little sections from physics, electronics, chemistry, astronomy and even geology (the study of the Earth's crust etc).

Gravity is one of the basic types of 'force'. It is an attraction between masses or bodies. The actual cause of gravity is still not known. Some theories propose that it involves gravitational waves, others propose particles called gravitons. Most scientists and physicists find gravitation very puzzling, as well as exasperating because we are unable to generate gravity like other forms of energy. These other forms of energy; light, heat, magnetism, electricity etc can be interconvertible - such as electricity into light, or heat into electricity, and so on.

Of all the natural forces, gravity is the most mysterious form of energy. It takes control of our lives from birth to death, even killing or maiming us if we make the slightest slip. So we can try to get some kind of relationship between gravity, man, animals, insects, fish, the Earth, the Sun, the Moon, and the planets?

Because it effects all of the above.

Gravity dominates the lives of large animals such as elephants, horses, men and dogs. Anything smaller than a mouse, it is seldom more than a mild inconvenience. To insects, flies, moths etc, they are so light and fragile that the air itself bouys them up, so gravity bothers them no more than it does a fish in water.

Just for a moment let's think about this. An elephant has great difficulty trying to move very fast because of its size and mass. On the other hand we have giant whales with more size and mass which have the ability to move with ease in water. As we know water has a greater density than air, plus of course air or gases have a much lower density at high altitudes than at sea level or below. This is similar to gravity. The further away from the centre of Earth, the weaker the pull gravity has on any mass or body.

As yet we cannot generate gravity at all, and it appears completely indifferent to all the influences which we may bring to bear on it. The only way a gravitational field can be produced is by the presence of matter- that is as far as we know! This planet Earth has a mass of billions of tons, yet the force of gravity is very weak and can only produce a rather modest gravitational field. In fact we can generate magnetic or electrical forces hundreds of times more powerful with small amounts of iron and copper. When you lift a piece of iron with a simple horse-shoe magnet, the amount of metal the magnet contains is out-pulling the whole earth. So this very weak field makes it all the more puzzling, and also makes our ability to control or modify it more difficult.

The mass of our own satellite the Moon is much less than the Earth, therefore the gravitational force on the Moon is much less. You would also weigh about $1/6^{\text{th}}$ of your weight on Earth. But at the same time we also know that the Moon is responsible for moving all the water on this planet – the tides.

I am going to come back later to one or two theories about the Moon, the local planets, tides, earthquakes, volcanoes etc.

Many scientists have given up trying to find a way of controlling gravity, or trying to discover a form of anti-gravity. What some mathematicians are doing is to simply uncover some basic knowledge about gravity. So if we keep on plodding through all the knowledge available we may eventually discover something so simple that it's been overlooked before. It may be staring us in the face!

In the past many inventors have developed numerous types of equipment claiming they could control gravity. If only they had the large amounts of money to construct big enough units. Myself I don't think we need such large

mechanical devices to overcome the force of gravity.

Today the general opinion is that gravity travels at the same speed as light, and that like light, has some kind of wave structure. The probable reason for few people attempting to study gravity on the Earth's surface is because it would be like testing Hi-Fi equipment in a noisy factory; the effects they would be looking for would be swamped out by the background. Therefore, to test or study it more accurately you would need a laboratory in space, to investigate it under weightless conditions.

Many people are misled by the impression that an astronaut is weightless – because he is 'beyond the pull of gravity'. This is completely wrong. Even in the remotest part of the galaxy one would still be under the influence of the Earth's gravity, even though it would be almost negligible. Actually it falls off slowly with distance. The Moon and our man-made satellites are still affected by it.

We have become accustomed to using the words 'gravity' and 'weight' interchangeably. In terrestrial situations this is safe enough because whenever there's weight there is gravity and vice-versa. But in actual fact they are quite separate entities and occur independently of each other.

So you can be weightless when there is gravity, the reverse is also true. You don't need gravity to give you weight. A change of speed or change of acceleration will do just as well. The first example of weightlessness while you are affected by gravity would be for you to stand on your bathroom scales (showing your true weight). The scales first to be placed on a large trap door. Then someone pulling the cord or switch, opening the trap door. From that moment your scales would register zero. But gravity would certainly be evident, you would know that when you hit the ground!

The second example would show no weight. If you stood on the scales while floating way out into space with very little gravity, not until some force or rocket was placed under the scales to give some pressure, you would then see some weight on the scales. In fact the more pressure or acceleration applied, the more weight you would register, yet still in an area of very little gravity.

The sensation of weight produced by acceleration is quite familiar. In an elevator

moving upwards, or horizontal, in a car making a fast getaway, or suddenly braking. As we can see it is possible to produce artificial weight of almost unlimited amount. If we produce artificial weight horizontally, in a straight line, it would quickly take us over the horizon.

But motion in a circle is different as everybody who has ridden on a carousel knows, a fast circular movement can generate substantial forces. This principal is used in the giant centrifuges, the machines that they use in space medicine research, which can give a man up to twenty times his normal weight, or 20 Gs as they call it.

Looking at these forces then it means we can imitate gravity but we cannot control or neutralize it.

In our own space stations or space ships, when we get tired of floating around inside, we can produce our own artificial weight. A gentle spin will give us the sensation which is very much the same as gravity. Except for the point that's 'up' is towards the centre of the vehicle, not away from it as is the case on Earth.

The time has come when we really need some form of gravity control, if we are to go out into space to explore the planets and their satellites or moons, like Titan. Therefore we must find a better and more efficient method than rockets. Some physicists have suggested that we should try and produce a form of negative gravity matter, or anti-gravity matter. But this could also pose a problem, because one ton on of anti-matter would require as much energy to bring it down to Earth as putting a one ton rocket into space, unless we could find some way to control it.

In a bar magnet – two negative poles or two positive poles reject each other. This can be controlled to a certain extent by the strength of the magnet, or if by using an electrical magnetic field. But this only applies to magnetic materials such as iron, steel etc. It has no effect on wood, stone, plastics or other substances.

There is another form of electrical energy, static electricity, which I shall discuss in the next issue.

(to be continued)

"FIREBALL" METEOR OR UFO?

By Dave Baker

On Sunday 17th August, at around 8:30 pm, 'Terry S' and a friend were descending Winn Hill after a day's walking in the Derbyshire Peak.

Looking to the South. Terry's attention was drawn to an extremely bright light in the sky. More or less as soon as he focused on it, the light "dropped vertically below the horizon" with a "big flash of light."

Terry's friend, who had been looking elsewhere at the time, did not see the point of light but he did catch the flash.

The light was about the size of a pin-head, and took only "about a quarter of a second" to drop out of sight.

Although aware of shooting stars and meteors, which it did most resemble, Terry was impressed and puzzled by the flash of light, which was bright enough to be unmissable even at dusk. "There was still plenty of daylight, but you couldn't miss it." Terry said.

One of Terry's friends also saw the flash of light from his attic window in the Crookes area of Sheffield at about the same time. He did not however, see any 'object'.

I became aware of the event via South Yorkshire journalist and writer/researcher Dave Clarke, who had been contacted by Terry after calling the *Sheffield Star*.

I thought that the UFO – a word Terry only used once, and wryly at that – was either a meteor or a piece of space junk re-entering the atmosphere and burning up.

The chairman of the Sheffield Astronomical Society confirmed that what Terry and his friend saw was almost certainly a "fireball" meteor, although not as I had suspected- a perseid, as Perseus is not in the South at this time of year.

"I wish I had seen it!" The chairman commented!

SCHWEINFURT - A MYSTERY SOLVED?

BY ANDY ROBERTS

In 1990 I wrote an article entitled W.W.II Document Research - In Search of Foo-Fighters, which primarily dealt with the 'UFOs' allegedly seen in the 14th October 1943 Schweinfurt raid(1). This has since been posted on the Project 47 site (2) and now forms the background to the present article.

The tone of my 1990 piece was very sceptical of the case because, despite having gone to great lengths, I had been unable to track the source of the case down. The source was an alleged UK government document quoted in author Martin Caidin's *Black Thursday*, a book which dealt with the events of the bombing raid of Thursday 14th October 1943(3).

Having done quite a bit of research into foo-fighters, and having a general interest in W.W.II, I have been quite obsessed by the story over the years. All avenues of enquiry seemed to lead nowhere and in 1999 I went to the Public Records Office (PRO) at Kew and searched many files connected to the Schweinfurt raid. At that time I found nothing at all relating to Caidin's claims and this only strengthened my feelings it was a fabrication.

However.....

In July 2000 I spent another few of days at the PRO and this time hit pay-dirt. Besides finding several hitherto unseen references to what would later be termed 'foo-fighters', much new material on ghost rockets and 1950s UK government UFO research, I again went through all the available Schweinfurt related files and came across something of great relevance.

But first here is how Martin Caidin reported the incident in *Black Thursday*.

"As the bombers of the 384th Group swung into the final bomb run after passing the Initial Point, the fighter attacks fell off.

This point is vital, and pilots were queried extensively, as were other crew members, as to the position at that time of the German fighter planes. Every man interrogated was firm in his

statement that "at the time there were no enemy aircraft above."

At this moment the pilots and top turret gunners, as well as several crewmen in the Plexiglas noses of the bombers, reported a cluster of discs in the path of the 384th's formation and closing with the bombers. The startled exclamations focused attention on the phenomenon, and the crews talked back and forth, discussing and confirming the astonishing sight before them.

The discs in the cluster were agreed upon as being silver colored, about one inch thick and three inches in diameter. They were easily seen by the B-17 crewmen, gliding down slowly in a very uniform cluster. And then the "impossible" happened. B-17 Number 026 closed rapidly with a cluster of discs; the pilot attempted to evade an imminent collision with the objects, but was unsuccessful in this manoeuvre. He reported at the intelligence debriefing that his "right wing went directly through a cluster with absolutely no effect on engines or plane surface."

The intelligence officers pressed their questioning, and the pilot stated further that one of the discs was heard to strike the tail assembly of his B-17, but that neither he nor any member of the crew heard or witnessed an explosion.

He further explained that about twenty feet from the discs the pilots sighted a mass of black debris of varying sizes in clusters of three by four feet.

The SECRET report added: "Also observed two other A/C flying through silver discs with no apparent damage. Observed discs and debris two other times but could not determine where it came from."

No further information on this baffling incident has been uncovered, with the exception that such discs were observed by pilots and crew members prior to, and after, Mission 115 of October 14, 1943.

Memorandum of October 24 1943, from Major E.R.T. Holmes, F.L.O., 1st Bombardment

Division, Reference FLO/IBW/REP/126, to M.I. 15, War Office, Bombardment Division, London, S.W. (copy to Colonel E.W. Thompson, A-2, Pinetree)"(4)

Caidin's account of this event via the alleged UK document has existed in UFO legend for forty years without proof. Now I can reveal that the document exists and is almost as Caidin records it.

The document, which Caidin obviously based his account on, reads as follows. All spelling and punctuation is in the original. The file in which the document can be found is: AIR 40/464

At the top right of the document is a rubber stamp giving details of circulation to:

1. Col Kingman Douglas
2. A.I.3. ? (W/Cdr Smith)
3. A.I. 2. ? (W/Cdr Heath)

(Author note: the ? refers to a squiggle or letter I cannot decipher, although it could well be 'to'. Also the background of the stamp on which the above was written says: "Received 17 Oct 1943"

"Copies sent to A.I.8 (USA))

The rest of the document is as follows:

EKG. TELEGRAM EN
CLAIR 4112

Recd. AMCS.

171129 a hrs Oct.43

To- OIAWW, OIAJX, OISHL, HBC, AMY.

From - OIPNT

IMPORTANT - CONFIDENTIAL

8 BC 0-1079-E

Annex to Intelligence Report Mission Schweinfurt 16 October 1943

306 Group reports partially unexploded 20mm shell imbedded above the panel in the cockpit of A/C number 412 bearing the following figures 19K43. The Group Ordnance Officer believes the steel composing the shell is of

inferior grade. 348th Group reports a cluster of disks observed in the path of the formation near Schweinfurt, at the time there were no E/A above. Discs were described as silver coloured - one inch thick and three inches in diameter. They were gliding slowly down in very uniform cluster. A/C 026 was unable to avoid them and his right wing went directly through a cluster with absolutely no effect on engines or plane surface. One of the discs was heard striking tail assembly but no explosion was observed. About 20 feet from these discs a mass of black debris of varying sizes in clusters of 3 by 4 feet. Also observed 2 other A/C flying through silver discs with no apparent damage. Observed discs and debris 2 other times but could not determine where it came from.

Copies to:-

P.R. & A.I.6.

D.B.Ops
War Room

D.A.T.

A.I.3. (USA) (Action 2 copies)

Analysis

Presumably Caidin must have seen a copy of this document from one of the American recipients. The following points seem relevant:

* I have tried to check the reference Caidin gives three times now at the PRO, once by using a professional researcher. It does not exist. However the AIR files were all re-numbered at some point prior to them being located at the PRO and it is possible the reference refers to the files' original designation.

* It is also possible the reference pertains to the accompanying letter when it was sent to the USA. This is unlikely however, as the memo is stated to have been sent from one UK source to another and then on to the USA. The Rubber stamp clearly states it was received on 17 October, pre-dating Caidin's reference by seven days. But the sheer number of channels through which documents went be the reason for this confusion and now the original document has been located I don't think we need get hung up on the original reference any more.

* I have found no record of most of the

personnel listed. However a Squadron Leader Heath was involved in the UK's investigations of the Scandinavian 'ghost rockets' in 1946.

* Besides the above, other than some possibly excusable authorial hype, Caidin has recorded the incident more or less as the document states

Conclusion

At least we now know Caidin's reference exists! Besides that there is little to say really. The objects reported are intriguing but not completely mystifying. There were many types of flak being used by the Germans in W.W.II and several files in the PRO refer to coloured flak, flak which threw off unusual fragments, and so on. This explanation is made more likely by the fact that the 'F.L.O.' in Caidin's reference stands for 'Flak Liaison Officer', at least suggesting that the Air Ministry were treating it within a flak context.

The objects could also have been some kind of 'window' dropped by the Germans in an attempt to disrupt radar or radio communication among air crew. The explanation as to what the small objects were is now more of a task for the air historian than it is for the ufologist. What is clear from the original account is that the discs, whilst unusual, were clearly not any type of 'craft', under intelligent or purposeful control or dangerous to the air craft or crew.

In my opinion these objects do not belong in the category of sightings referred to as 'foo-fighters', both by their physical description and by their behaviour and characteristics. Although often lumped in with foo-fighter reports they are clearly different. This story has been a staple of UFO writers for the past three four decades. Now we have further clarification and I believe that this particular mystery is more or less laid to rest.

References

1. UFO Brigantia July 1990
2. <http://www.project1947.com/>
3. Caidin, Martin. Black Thursday, Dell 1960

MAGNETIC 'SOLUTION' TO CROP CIRCLE PUZZLE

Research into the appearance of crop circles in summer fields claims the strange phenomena are caused by the Earth's magnetic field.

Scientist Colin Andrews says 17 years of work has revealed that about 80% of the formations are man-made.

But he believes that magnetism may account for the rest, which display a simplicity of form compared with elaborate, beautiful patterns of the "hoaxes".

Dr Andrews believes a mysterious shift in the magnetic field gives rise to a current that "electrocutes" the crops forcing them to lie flat on the ground.

Summertime feature

The known hoaxers, artists who spend hours trampling fields with footboards attached to a length of rope, say the public does not believe in scientific explanations.

Crop circles are a regular summertime feature of the UK arable landscape, particularly in Wiltshire and the West Country where there are a number of ancient sites.

Designs in the flattened wheat, barley and corn become more elaborate each year, fuelling the debate over who or what is responsible for them.

Explanations have ranged from freak weather conditions to alien visitors. But Dr Andrews, funded by a grant from the Rockefeller Institute in the US, believes he is closer to the truth.

'Natural' creations

He has hired private detectives to track hoaxers and now says he can rule out 80% of the formations. He claims the less elaborate designs are the "natural" creations caused by a three-degree shift in magnetic field lines.